

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A networked system that provides for distributive management of a print job without the use of a print server, the system comprising:

a network;

a plurality of client computer devices connected to the network, wherein the plurality of client computer devices are configured to participate in the distributive management of the print job and a prioritization of the print job without use of a print server, including bi-directional communication across the network, and wherein each client computer device includes a local print queue and a local print queue manager, wherein the local print queue manager is one of (i) a spooler, (ii) a print processor, and (iii) a print assist in a local print subsystem of the corresponding client computer device;

a printing device for processing the print job initiated at one of the plurality of client computer devices, wherein the printing device is connected to the network and corresponds to the print queues of the client computer devices; and

a broadcast message of information about the print job sent from a print queue manager of a first client computer device to a second client computer device across the network as part of the distributive management of the print job to determine which of the client computer devices shall be used to manage the print job, wherein the first and second client computer devices are of the plurality of computer devices.

2. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message indicates an intent of the first client computer device to participate in the distributed management of the print job.

3. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message indicates an intent to despool print data to the printing device.

4. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message indicates an intent to set a status for the print job.

5. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message indicates an intent to get a current status for the print job.

6. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message indicates an intent to set a status on the printing device.

7. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message indicates an intent to get a current status for the printing device.

8. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message provides a request for print queue information.

9. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message provides a request for a print queue change.

10. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast message provides a request for administrative authority.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) In a system that includes client computer devices connected to a printing device via a network, a method for managing a print job without use of a print server, the method comprising:

initiating a print job at a first client computer device, wherein the first client computer device is one of the client computer devices connected to the printing device via the network, and wherein no print server is connected to the network;

placing the print job on a print queue;

distributively managing the print job and a prioritization of the print job until print data of the print job is despoled to the printing device, wherein said distributively managing the print job and a prioritization of the print job comprises:

broadcasting information about the print job to a plurality of said client computer devices; and

determining which one or more of the plurality of client computer devices shall be used to manage the print job;

despooling the print data to the printing device to render the print job; and updating the print queue.

13. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said initiating a print job includes determining whether to perform cluster printing, and wherein if the cluster printing is to be performed, utilizing the printing device in performing the cluster printing.

14. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said initiating a print job includes determining whether to perform intelligent routing, and wherein if the

intelligent routing is to be performed, utilizing the printing device in performing the intelligent routing.

15. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said distributively managing the print job comprises:

if a response to the broadcast is received, determining whether the response includes a conflict for despooling the print data to the printing device, and wherein if the conflict is included in the first response, resolving the conflict.

16. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said distributively managing the print job comprises:

if a response to the broadcast is received, determining whether the response includes an objection to despooling the print data to the printing device, and wherein if the objection is included in the first response, resolving the objection.

17. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said distributively managing the print job comprises:

if no response to the broadcast is received, using the first client computer device to manage the print job..

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the print job is a first print job, and wherein said distributively managing the print job further comprises:

utilizing a second broadcast relating to a second print job to determine which of the client computer devices shall be used to manage the second print job; and ordering the print jobs on a print queue.

21. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said distributively managing the print job is enabled by at least one of:

- (i) a print driver;
- (ii) a print assistant; and
- (iii) the spooler.

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said despooling the print data further includes setting a status of the print job on a print queue.

25. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for despooling the print data further includes removing a remote entry of the print job from a remote print queue.

26. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein if the print data corresponding to the print job is in a printer ready format, the step for despooling the print data further includes using a print processor to send the print data to a port manager.

27. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein if the print data corresponding to the print job is in a journaled format, the step for despooling the print data further includes:

using a print processor to play back the journaled data to a printer driver;
spooling the print data to a spooler; and
sending the print data to a port manager.

28. (previously presented) A computer program product for implementing within a networked computer system a method for managing a print job without any use of a print server, the computer program product comprising:

computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

initiating a print job at a first client computer device, wherein the first client computer device is one of a plurality of client computer devices;

placing the print job on a print queue;

distributively managing the print job until print data of the print job is despoiled to a printing device, wherein said distributively managing the print job comprises utilizing a broadcast to determine which of the plurality of client computer devices shall be used to manage the print job ;

despooling the print data to the printing device to render the print job; and
updating the print queue.

29. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 28,
wherein said distributively managing the print job further comprises:

if a response to the broadcast is received, performing the steps of:

determining whether the response includes a conflict from the client
computer device to despool the print data to the printing device, wherein if the
conflict is included in the response, resolving the conflict; and

determining whether the response includes an objection from the client
computer device to despool the print data to the printing device, wherein if the
objection is included in the response, resolving the objection; and

if no response to the broadcast is received, using the first client computer device
to manage the print job.

30. (cancelled)

31. (cancelled)

32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the broadcast message is used to perform at least one of:

- (i) registering one of the plurality of client computer devices for distributed management of print jobs;
- (ii) indicating an intent to despool the print job;
- (iii) setting a status of a despoled print job;
- (iv) obtaining a status of a despoled print job;
- (v) setting a status of the printing device;
- (vi) obtaining a status of the printing device;
- (vii) requesting print queue information; and
- (viii) requesting a print queue change.

34. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the broadcast is used to register a client computer device for distributed management of print jobs.

35. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the broadcast is used to indicate an intent to despool the print job.

36. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the broadcast is used to set or check a status of a despoled print job.

37. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the broadcast is used to set or get a status of the printing device.

38. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the broadcast is used to request print queue information.

39. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the broadcast is used to request a print queue change.